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Washington Whispers

Based on new intelligence findings, the Pentagon now suspects the Russians have jumped ahead by developing laser "death ray" weapons for battlefield use. American officials say they will need several more years of testing before the U.S. is ready to build such weapons.

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Friends of Stansfield Turner figure Carter's cabinet purge has given the embattled CIA chief added job insurance. White House advisers would like to get rid of Turner but don't want to go through an anticipated scrap to win Senate approval of a successor in view of the present hostile political atmosphere.